

CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: PG:LAU-12 (PACS 1.8) Construction Date: 1911

Name: Cronmiller House

Location: 200 Laurel Avenue, Laurel, Prince George's County

Private/Private Residence/Occupied/Good/Restricted

Description:

The Cronmiller House is a 2½-story, 4-bay front-gable house on the south side of Laurel Avenue at its intersection with Second Street in Laurel, Prince George's County. Constructed in 1911, the building is a massed plan with a 1-story side-addition under the front-porch roof and a 1-story rear addition.

Significance:

The Cronmiller House was built in 1911 on Lot 12 of the Talbott Estate lots. May and John Cronmiller purchased lots 12 and 13 in May 1911 from Chauncey and Mary Weston, who had purchased them earlier that month from George Bond. Bond had purchased the lots in 1909 and 1910 from Armand Jardin, who lived in the house at 320 Second Street (PG:LAU-11). May and John Cronmiller lived in the house until 1925, when it was sold to Edna Gray and Mary Estelle Sagle. Mary Sagle and her husband Wilmer sold the property in 1950 to Clarke and Netty Lewis, except for a right-of-way which was granted to the State Roads Commission in 1949 to extend Second Street south of Laurel Avenue. The conveyance split lots 12 and 13. The Lewises sold the property in 1954 to William and Helen Wade. The Wades sold the property to Allison Ballenger in 1973. The property was conveyed through the estate of Allison Ballenger to Barbara Ann Mercurio and John Ballenger. John Ballenger sold his half-interest in the property to Barbara Ann Mercurio in 1990. She remains the current owner.

Maryland Historical TrustDOE ☐ yes ☐ no**Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form****Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term Congestion Relief****1. Name:** (indicate preferred name)

historic Cronmiller House (preferred)

and/or common Mercurio House

2. Location:

street & number 200 Laurel Avenue

n/a not for publication

city, town Laurel _____ vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county Prince George's

3. Classification:

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military other:
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation

4. Owner of Property: (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Barbara A. Mercurio

street & number 4639 Dustin Road

telephone no.:

city, town Burtonsville

state and zip code Maryland 20866

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records of Prince George's County

liber 7579

street & number Prince George's County Judicial Center

folio 102

city, town Upper Marlboro

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local _____

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. PG:LAU-12 (PACS 1.8)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Resource Count: 1

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Cronmiller House is a 2½-story, 4-bay front-gable house on the south side of Laurel Avenue at its intersection with Second Street in Laurel, Prince George's County. Constructed in 1911, the building is a massed plan with a 1-story side-addition under the porch roof and a 1-story rear addition.

The structure has a front-gable roof with a gable-peak on the side, and it is covered in asphalt shingles. It is of wood-frame construction, with asbestos siding, and it has a parged brick foundation. The windows are double-hung vinyl. The house has a full-width 1-story porch on the front. The porch has a hipped roof supported by square wood pillars on raised brick piers. There is a 1-story shed roof porch on the gable rear addition.

The north, or front elevation has a raised basement which is obscured by the front porch. There is a wood ramp leading from the front of the property to the porch. The first story entrance is located in the fourth bay. There is a 5-panel door set in a surround with sidelights and a transom. There are raised panels under the sidelights. The fenestration pattern is symmetrical, with three 1/1 double-hung windows on the first story. The second story has three 1/1 double-hung windows. There are paired 1/1 double-hung windows in the gable. All the windows have fixed shutters.

The east elevation is composed of the main block and a 1-story rear addition. The first story of the main block has been altered with a 1-story addition. There are two 1/1 double-hung windows on the first story of the main block. Two 1/1 double-hung windows flank a small 1/1 double-hung window on the second story. Paired 1/1 double-hung windows are located in the gable. There is a single 1/1 double-hung window on the side of the rear addition. The rear addition has a raised concrete block foundation, and there is one boarded window in the basement level of the rear addition.

The south, or rear elevation has a raised foundation. There is a door in the basement level. A canted bay on the west and the east side addition are also visible from this elevation. A set up steps leads to a shed-roof porch on the rear addition. The porch walls are covered in asbestos siding, and the upper portion of the porch is screened. There is a door in the first bay of the gable-roof rear addition, which is centered on the rear elevation. There is also a fixed light window on the rear elevation. There is a 4-light fixed window in the gable of the rear addition. The first story fenestration is symmetrical, with a 1/1 double-hung window in the canted bay and one 1/1 double-hung window in the first bay of the main block on the west side of the addition, and two 1/1 double-hung windows on the east side of the rear addition. The fourth window is located on the side addition. There are two 1/1 double-hung windows on the second story. There is one 1/1 double-hung window centered on the gable.

The west elevation is composed of the main block and the west side of the rear addition. It has a raised foundation, and there are three fixed-light windows in the basement level. There is a 1/1 double-hung window in the first bay of the first story, and a canted bay with a hipped roof is located in the second bay. There are three 1/1 double-hung windows in the canted bay. There is a 2-light sliding window on the west side of the rear addition. A wood ramp extends from the

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Cronmiller House

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ADDRESS: 200 Laurel Avenue, Laurel, Prince George's County

7. Description (Continued)

front of the property to the front porch. A set of wood steps leads to a modern door which has been added to the second story. There is a 1/1 double-hung window on either side of the door on the second story.

There are no outbuildings associated with this property.

The property is located on the south side of Laurel Avenue, with commercial property to the north, south, and west, and Second Street to the east. There are trees along the east, west, and south property lines, providing some screening from the surrounding commercial development. The property's setting is urban, however, unlike the historically residential nature of the area, this area of Laurel is now primarily commercial in character.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG:LAU-12 (PACS 1.8)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communication	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates 1911

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or
Applicable Exceptions: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Cronmiller House was built in 1911 on Lot 12 of the Talbott Estate lots. May and John Cronmiller purchased lots 12 and 13 in May 1911 from Chauncey and Mary Weston, who had purchased them earlier that month from George Bond. Bond had purchased the lots in 1909 and 1910 from Armand Jardin, who lived in the house at 320 Second Street (PG:LAU-11). May and John Cronmiller lived in the house until 1925, when it was sold to Edna Gray and Mary Estelle Sagle. Mary Sagle and her husband Wilmer sold the property in 1950 to Clarke and Netty Lewis, except for a right-of-way which was granted to the State Roads Commission in 1949 to extend Second Street south of Laurel Avenue. The conveyance split lots 12 and 13. The Lewises sold the property in 1954 to William and Helen Wade. The Wades sold the property to Allison Ballenger in 1973. The property was conveyed through the estate of Allison Ballenger to Barbara Ann Mercurio and John Ballenger. John Ballenger sold his half-interest in the property to Barbara Ann Mercurio in 1990. She remains the current owner.

The Cronmillers were a prominent family in Laurel by the end of the nineteenth century. The family included Dr. John Cronmiller, a physician, and Eliza Cronmiller, a teacher. In the 1894 directory of Laurel, the Dr. John Cronmiller family lived on Main Street between Post Office Avenue and Center Street. The William Cronmiller family lived on the corner of Montgomery and Fifth Streets, and the Mrs. Joshuaine Cronmiller family lived on Washington Avenue between Montgomery and Laurel Avenues. This house was probably built by John Cronmiller, the son of Dr. John Cronmiller. The younger John Cronmiller had no listed profession in the 1894 directory.

The Cronmiller House is located on Laurel Avenue in Laurel. Laurel is located on land originally patented to Richard Snowden in 1715 as "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" in Prince George's County. "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" was approximately 1214 hectares (3000 acres) from Old Columbia Pike to the present city of Laurel, and from south of Greencastle and Van Dusen Roads to north of Sandy Spring Road. The 1715 patent increased the already substantial Snowden land holdings, and later additions to Snowden land eventually covered 3749 hectares (9265 acres) by 1743. (Cook 1976: 270-271).

The Snowden family had established a grist mill at Laurel about 1810. In 1824, the grist mill was adapted to spin cotton yarn that was shipped to textile mills. In 1835, the mill was converted back to a grist mill. Snowden family members and the O.C. Tiffany company of Baltimore established the Patuxent Cotton Manufacturing Company. Factory buildings were built along the river, and the town of Laurel developed as a manufacturing town along Main Street running between

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ADDRESS: 200 Laurel Avenue, Laurel, Prince George's County

8. Significance (Continued)

the factory and the B&O Railroad station (Prince George's County 1974: 283; Prince George's County Historical Society 1980: 37). Laurel became the largest town in the county. The textile mill provided the basis for Laurel's economy into the twentieth century. When textile output began to decline early in the century, Laurel began to develop as a suburb for both Washington and Baltimore. Located halfway between the two cities, Laurel was accessible to commuters by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and by U.S. 1 (Prince George's County 1974: 284).

The Cronmiller House is an example of a front-gable house. The front-gable house first appeared in the 1830s during the Greek Revival movement (McAlester and McAlester 1984, 90). This type was typically one-room wide and two-rooms deep, and fit easily on the narrow lots found in urban and early suburban areas. Porches were commonly placed across the front and rear elevations. Front-gable houses could feature details drawn from the Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, or Craftsman movements. During the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, many were constructed for working class families. These were often devoid of ornament. Front-gable houses appeared during the Agricultural-Industrial Transition Period and the Industrial/Urban Dominance Period.

National Register Evaluation

Constructed in 1911, the Cronmiller House Property is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state, or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as it is an undistinguished example of a front-gable house. The Cronmiller House has been altered with asbestos siding, replacement windows, side and rear additions, and wood ramps and stairs. The Cronmiller House displays none of the detailing typically associated with front-gable houses, and no longer retains integrity of setting, feeling, association, materials, or workmanship. The house is surrounded by commercial development. Finally, the structure has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility Not Recommended XX
Comments _____

Reviewer, OPS: [Signature] Date: 9/2/99
Reviewer, NR Program: [Signature] Date: 9/2/99

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No. PG:LAU-12(PACS 1.8)

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name Laurel, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan L. Taylor

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date May 1998

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Cronmiller House

SURVEY NO.: PG:LAU-12 (PACS 1.8)

ADDRESS: 200 Laurel Avenue, Laurel, Prince George's County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Brugger, Robert A. 1988. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Cook, William G. 1976. Montpelier & the Snowden Family. Privately Printed.

Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. 1976. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society.

Hopkins, G.M. [1879] 1975. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including County of Prince George's, Maryland. Reprint, Riverdale, Maryland: Prince George's County Historical Society.

Land Records of Prince George's County, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

"The Laurel Factory." News and Notes from the Prince George's County Historical Society. (July 1980): 38-40. (First published in The American Farmer. Baltimore, Maryland, August 1845.)

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. 1984. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Poe, Gertrude L. 1970. Laurel, Maryland: Centennial Souvenir Booklet. Laurel, Maryland: The News Leader.

Prince George's County Community Renewal Program. 1974. The Neighborhoods of Prince George's County. Upper Marlboro, Maryland: Prince George's County Government.

Tindall, George Brown. 1984. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

Virta, Alan. 1984. Prince George's County: A Pictorial History. Rev. 1991. Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers.

Virta, Alan. "The Pretty, Rosy-Cheeked Girls of Laurel." News and Notes from the Prince George's County Historical Society. (July 1980): 37.

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Cronmiller House

SURVEY NO.: PG:LAU-12 (PACS 1.8)

ADDRESS: 200 Laurel Avenue, Laurel, Prince George's County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s): Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form): Building

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural): Village

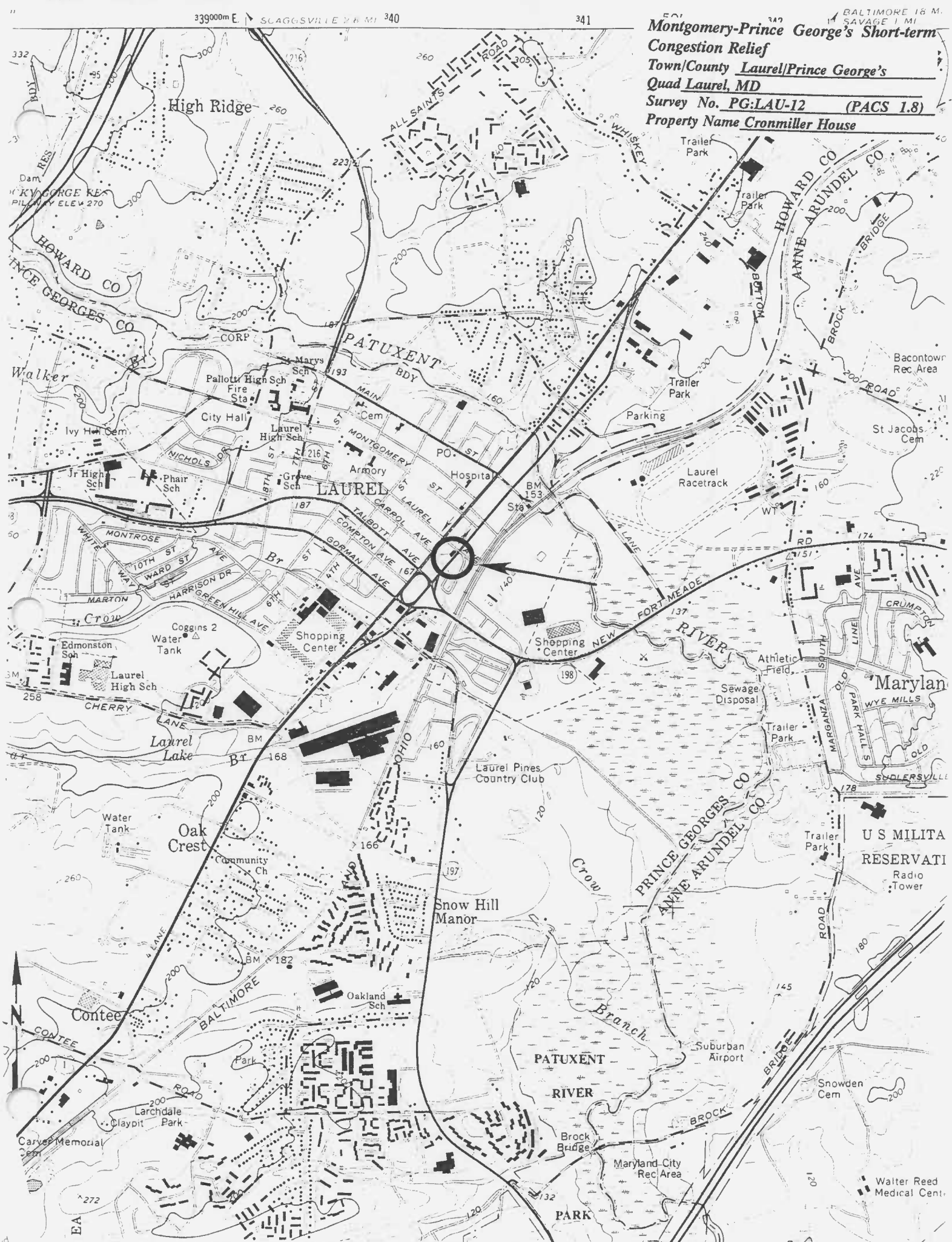
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Private Residence

Known Design Source (write none if unknown): None

Preparer
P.A.C. Spero & Company
May 1998

BALTIMORE 16 M.
SAVAGE 1 MI

**Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term
Congestion Relief**
Town/County Laurel/Prince George's
Quad Laurel, MD
Survey No. PG:LAU-12 (PACS 1.8)
Property Name Cronmiller House





1 PGilman - Fr

2 Oannell's House

3 Proctor's - on C. Mt

4 James Taylor

5 5/28

6 11/25 - P.

7 1/2 elevation

8 1 of 2

214 N. 1230 200



- 1 PG: Lau-12
- 2 Cromwell, Horse
- 3 Prince George's Co, Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md STPO
- 7 NE 30.12
- 8 2 12 9

77 X RN 1230968



- 1 PG: Law 12
- 2 Crummett House
- 3 Prince George's Co. Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Mt St. Ann
- 7 E. Glenview
- 8 3/17

215 N N 1270 96P



- 1 Potomac 12
- 2 Drummer House
- 3 Prince Georges Co. Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Mx SHPS
- 7 SE corner
- 8 4 of 9

356021 N N 1220968



- 1 PG: can 12
- 2 Cronmiller House
- 3 Prince George, A. Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Mid SHPO
- 7 S elevation
- 8 5 of 9

2011.11.11. 12:00 PM



- 1 PG: Lau 12
- 2 Cronmiller House
- 3 Prince George's Co. Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Mid SHPO
- 7 SW corner
- 8 6 of 9

SP. H. N. H. 1200988



- 1 PG 500 12
- 2 Cornwell's House
- 3 Prince George's Co. Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md SHPO
- 7 W elevator
- 8 7 of 9

DT 3.11.11 1220 656



- 1 Pellan-12
- 2 Coramiller House
- 3 Prince George's Rd
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5198
- 6 Md SHP
- 7 N.W. corner
- 8 8 of 9

Ms. A. 9. 2. 1225 100



200

- 1 PG-Lan 12
- 2 Controller Corner
- 3 Prince Georges Co, Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md SIPO
- 7 detail of door
- 8 9 of 9